

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

JOB TITLE: Epidemiologist

GRADE: 19

JOB CODE: 2170

DATE: 9-25-02

GENERAL FUNCTION: Under general supervision of the local health department director, performs complex epidemiological studies on the distribution and determinants of bio-terrorism events, infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies (epidemic and endemic). Work involves assisting in devising methods of surveillance, implementation, and analysis of epidemiological investigations or studies; participating in general data management and report writing for epidemiological studies and investigations within a specified geographic area of the state.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Assists with the maintenance of a health-monitoring database for the early recognition of any clustering of events, for the analysis of community health patterns to facilitate resource allocation and for the study of hypotheses on the health of the community.

Designs surveys and questionnaires to collect data on specific diseases.

Conducts studies designed to identify segments of the population at greater risk of acquiring specific diseases and identify factors associated with disease.

Conducts field investigations during periods of unusual occurrences of disease.

Performs statistical analyses of study data. Tabulates, charts and graphs health related data for analysis of agent, host and environmental factors. Utilizes appropriate computer programs for the statistical analysis of data.

Plans and organizes new methods for obtaining additional health data and for improving the reliability and validity of health data being collected by the local health department and the Department for Public Health.

Assists in the formulation of hypotheses to explain the differential occurrence of diseases in various population groups and locations in Kentucky, and assists in the design of epidemiological studies to test these hypotheses.

Assists in the formulation of recommendations for interventions to reduce the occurrence and/or severity of diseases or injuries of public health significance in the state. Develops valid useful criteria for defining and prioritizing health needs and public health programs.

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Provides consultation, educational programs, information sharing conferences, in-service programs for health department professionals, community groups, etc. about relevant epidemiological subjects (control of communicable and non-communicable diseases).

Reads, interprets and prepares technical reports on epidemiological studies and investigations.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: limited supervision with alternating periods of autonomy and general review. Supervisor plays limited role in setting objectives and organizing work. The Kentucky Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning will set epidemiological objectives.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: May supervise designated staff

JOB SPECIFICATIONS:

Knowledge and Abilities:

Knowledge of the basic principles and methods of epidemiology and biostatistics

Knowledge of infectious disease, adverse reproductive outcomes, cancer or other chronic disease processes.

Knowledge of occupational and environmental diseases or injuries.

Knowledge of basic biological processes.

Oral and written communications skills

Skill in communicating scientific/medical information succinctly and accurately to groups of people with a variety of experience

Interpersonal skills

Knowledge of computer application(s) in investigative techniques and data collection.

Ability to independently perform epidemiological investigations

Ability to independently collect, analyze and interpret epidemiological data.

Minimum Education, Training and Experience Requirements: Graduate from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in Epidemiology, Public Health, Biostatistics, or closely related field. Course work should include at least one course in

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epidemiology and a second course in a closely related subject area such as;

Biostatistics, Vital and Medical Statistics, Informatics, Survey Sampling and Design, etc.).

A Masters or Doctoral candidate in a field above may be considered so long as the graduate work is completed within one (1) year of employment.

Example of duties or responsibilities are not to be construed as describing what the duties or responsibilities of any position shall be and are not to be construed as limiting the appointing authority's ability to add to, or otherwise alter the duties and responsibilities of a position. The use of an individual expression or illustration as to duties or responsibilities shall not be regarded, as excluding assignments of others not mentioned which are of similar kind or quality.